

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2576

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1982

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP US BC

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S VISIT TO U.S.: KHAMA'S COMMENTS

REF: GABORONE 1858

1. AT CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE VISIT WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA ON OTHER SUBJECTS JUNE 26, AND NOT HAVING HAD PREVIOUS CHANCE TO DISCUSS HIS JUNE 6-9 VISIT TO THE U.S., I BROACHED THE SUBJECT BY SAYING I WAS SORRY AN EARLIER OCCASION HAD NOT ARISEN TO REVIEW HIS VISIT.

2. KHAMA'S PROMPT REPLY WAS "THINGS WENT A BIT HAYWIRE (SIC), DIDN'T THEY". TAKING MY CUE FROM FONMINMOGWE (REFTEL), I CHOSE TO INTERPRET THIS AS REFERENCE TO ABSENCE OF A TIMELY REPLY TO HIS REQUEST TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. I NOTED OUR AIM HAD BEEN TO KEEP OPEN PROSPECT OF MEETING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. KHAMA OBSERVED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO EVENTUAL MEETINGS.

3. I ASKED ABOUT HIS VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN NEW YORK. KHAMA SPOKE IN WARM TERMS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DINNER INVITATION BUT NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. HE ADDED, WITH OBVIOUS RELISH, THAT AMBASSADOR

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YOUNG HAD REGRETTED NOT HAVING YET VISITED BOTSWANA BUT CONFIRMING HIS "INTENTION TO DO SO" BEFORE LONG. I REPLIED THIS WAS MOST ENCOURAGING. KHAMA SAID AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT AND TALKS IN WASHINGTON "REMAINED ON THE AGENDA". (KHAMA WAS INTERRUPTED BY A PHONE CALL AT THIS POINT AND CONVERSATION MOVED TO A DIFFERENT SUBJECT WHEN IT RESUMED.) COMMENT: KHAMA'S OBVIOUS PLEASURE IN HEARING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENT

THAT ABSENCE OF BOTSWANA FROM HIS TRAVELS DOES NOT MEAN IT HAS
BEEN FORGOTTEN WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CONVERSATION
AND, I WOULD GUESS, OF KHAMA'S VISIT.
NORLAND

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NNN

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